Government has launched two new Schemes namely, National Food Security Mission (NFSM) to improve production and productivity of foodgrains and Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojna (RKVY) with an objective to incentivise the States so as to increase public investment in agriculture and allied sector and to provide flexibility and autonomy to States in the process of planning and executing agriculture and allied sector schemes.

To address the problem of suicide by farmers, Government of India has approved a Rehabilitation Package amounting to Rs. 16978.69 crore, for 31 districts spread over the States of Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Kerala. The Package consisting of short term and long term measures is being implemented since July, 2006. It aims at establishing a sustainable and viable farming and livelihood support system through debt relief to farmers, improved supply of institutional credit, assured irrigation facilities, watershed management, better extension and farming support services and subsidiary income opportunities. Besides, a number of initiatives, Plan Schemes and programmes including the initiatives/programmes announced in the Budget 2008-09 have been taken/initiated to address the problems faced by the farmers and for development of agriculture sector.

Statement

Cases of Suicide by farmers as Received from State Governments

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Period	No. (Based on the figures reported by State Govts.)	
1	2	3	4	
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2004	1251	
		2005	632	
		2006	514	
		2007 (upto 30.6.2007)	142	
2.	Karnataka	2004-05	271	
		2005-06	163	
		2006-07	343	
		2007-08 (up to 31.12.2007)	235	
3.	Maharashtra		Total	Vidarbha
		2004	632	441
		2005	595	431
		2006	2355	1448
		2007	1985	1230
		2008 (up to Jan. 2008)	110	72
4.	Kerala	2001 to 2006	841	
		2007 (up to 31.10.2007)	64	

1	2	3	4
5.	Tamil Nadu	2000-2007 (up to March, 2007)	26
6.	Punjab*	2004	11
		2005	6
		2006	3
7.	Gujarat	2004	7
		2005	125

* The information reported *vide* State Government letter No. 4/39/06, Agri. 2(10)/7257 dt. 21.03.06 relates to the cotton belt of Punjab. Government of Punjab has also reported *vide* their letter No. 4/15/07-Agri.2(10)/3943 dt. 11.05.07, that number of suicides due to debt burden in the year 2003, 2004, 2005 and 2006 was 2, nil, 3 and 3 respectively.

NB 1: Nil report has been received from the. States namely, Orissa, Himachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Goa, Haryana, Sikkim, J & K, Mizoram, Chhattisgarh, Assam, Meghalaya, Arunachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, Manipur and Rajasthan and all UTs.

Implementation of revised enhanced storage rates in Andhra Pradesh

810. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that the General Manager of Food Corporation of India (FCI), Andhra Pradesh region has not implemented the revised enhanced storage rates in Andhra Pradesh, whereas all other regional offices of FCI have been paying the enhanced rates to all other State Warehousing Corporations and also to the Central Warehousing Corporation for godowns constructed under the seven year guarantee scheme;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government proposes to pay the revised storage rates to the Andhra Pradesh State Warehousing Corporation with effect from 1st April, 2002; and

(d) if so, by when orders in this regard is likely to be issued?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) No, Sir. In all the States the storage charges for the godowns hired under seven year guarantee scheme are being paid by FCI as per the following formula:

"Basic rent charges as per agreement between SWC and the investor + actual maintenance (cost of dunnage, locks, computer, stationery, telephone, staff, sweepers/casual labours, etc). + dis\nfestations charges on the stocks held, incurred by SWC/reimbursed by the SWC to the investors + 15% supervisory charges".

(c) and (d) The APSWC has been asked to submit their final accounts for item-wise expenditure incurred in such godowns. However, they have provided the provisional accounts only. Accordingly, they are being paid at the rate of Rs. 1.27 paise per 50 kg. bag/per month.

National policy on farmers

811. SHR1 MAHENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has released the country's first ever National Policy on Fanners;

(b) if so, the recommendations of the National Commission on Farmers which have been accepted by Government;

(c) what recommendations like MSP have not been accepted by Government in the National Policy alongwith the reasons therefor; and

(d) the reasons for Government not placing the subject of agriculture in the Concurrent List?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA):(a)Yes,Sir.

(b) Most of the recommendations made by the National Commission on Farmers (NCF) in the Revised Draft National Policy for Farmers submitted by NCF have been accepted by the Government and incorporated in the National Policy for Farmers 2007 (NPF). Recommendations of NCF which have been accepted by the Government and incorporated in NPF, include, *inter alia* asset reforms in respect of land, water, livestock, fisheries and bioresources; support services and inputs like application of frontier technologies; agricultural biosecurity system; supply of good quality seeds and disease-free planting material; issue of soil health passbooks to the farmers and integrated pest management system; region and crop specific implements and machinery; support services for women like creches, child care centres, nutrition, health and training; timely, adequate and easy reach of institutional credit at reasonable interest rates and farmer-friendly insurance instruments; use of Information and Communication Technology and setting up of farm schools to revitalize agricultural extension; coverage of farmers under a comprehensive national social security scheme; effective implementation of MSP across the country and estabishing community foodgrain banks; development of agricultural market infrastructure and terminal markets for agriculture; curriculum reforms in agricultural universities; special categories of farming like organic farming and contract farming; rural non-farm employment initiatives for farm households; and integrated approach for rural energy, etc.

(c) and (d) A very few recommendations of NCF contained in the Revised Draft National Policy for Farmers submitted by NFC have not been incorporated in the National Policy for Farmers 2007. These include, *inter alia,* the following with reasons therefor: (i) fixation of Minimum Support Price (MSP) at least 50% higher than the weighted average cost of production—as MSP is recommended by the Commission for Agricultural Costs & Prices (CACP) on objective criteria considering variety of relevant factors and a mechanical linkage between MSP and cost of production may be counter productive; (ii) MSP and procurement operations to be treated as two separate initiatives—as it would be difficult to implement; (iii) Public Distribution System (PDS) to be made universal—as PDS is a targeted scheme where even off take for BPL families is short against allocation for BPL categories; (iv) establishment of Indian Trade Organisation and National Livestock Development Council at the National level—as the concerned Departments of Government of India opposed to their establishment; (v) enactment of Food Guarantee Act—as the existing schemes and Programmes on food security and rural Employment like NREG Act and revamped PDS take care of the food security of BPL families; (vi) setting up of Agricultural Risk Fund, Market Price Stabilisation Fund and Gram Panchayat Mahila Fund—as these should be proposed as schemes to be funded through the normal budgeting process to which money should flow annually based on performance appraisal without locking in resources in such funds. The recommendation of NCF for placing the subject of Agriculture in Concurrent List was not incorporated in NPF as it would involve Constitutional Amendment.